



Advancing transit  
in Northern Virginia  
since 1964



# Executive Director Newsletter



December  
**2024**

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## A Message from Kate Mattice

This month we'll host the 2024 edition of our Legislative Forum. It promises to be a great event. I'm delighted to say that we've assembled a lineup of speakers and panelists that will give us insight into transit's successes and challenges and ignite dialogue about the future needs of our regional transit agencies.

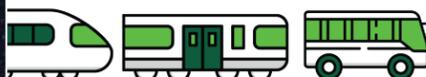
We use our Legislative Forum to inform the region's elected officials and their staff about the legislative priorities for NVTC and our forum partners, the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), but it's much more than that. The event brings so many of us together to champion the cause of keeping public transit strong in Northern Virginia.

This year's program features Virginia senator and delegates, officials from NVTC and PRTC jurisdictions, and regional transit leaders. The program will highlight the opportunities and challenges facing public transit in Northern Virginia and focus on what public transit funding looks like in the future. We'll hear in detail about the work being done by the General Assembly's joint SJ28 subcommittee working on long-term, sustainable funding and the companion work done by DMVMoves, which is looking at solutions in the Greater Washington region.

We're especially honored to welcome Sen. Louise Lucas, President pro tempore of the Virginia Senate. Her work was vital to securing additional state aid for Metro for two years, providing a bridge to future funding solutions.

If you haven't RSVP'd already, you can learn more about the program and register on [our website](#). I look forward to seeing you on December 13.

*Kate A. Mattice*  
Executive Director



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**December 13**  
NVTC, PRTC & VRE  
Legislative Forum

**December 18**  
Virginia Passenger Rail  
Authority

**December 20**  
VRE Operations Board

**\*January 16**  
Commission Meeting  
(\*special date)

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## Metro GM touts strong financial management to business leaders

Executive Director Kate Mattice was on hand November 13 as Metro GM/CEO [Randy Clarke](#) touted the [agency's successes](#) in managing costs and rebounding ridership and revenue at [an event](#) organized by the Greater Washington Board of Trade and Greater Washington Partnership.

including no salary or wage increases for the current fiscal year, a new union contract that minimizes impacts from future inflationary spikes and a zero-growth budget for FY 2025.

Mr. Clarke told attendees that he's heard from many outside voices that Metro needs to be transparent and to save money, adding that "internally, we want to do that too." He shared a slide highlighting \$532 million in cost reductions,

Clarke also told attendees that Metro has experienced 43 consecutive months of ridership growth and that Metrobus leads the nation in ridership recovery on the bus side.

The breakfast also featured [a panel](#) of the region's transportation secretaries, including Virginia's Secretary of Transportation Shep Miller.

## General Assembly subcommittee advances long-term transit funding work

The General Assembly's joint subcommittee established by SJ 28 to study the growing needs of public transit in Northern Virginia held its [final meeting](#) of the year at NVTC's offices on November 12. Staff from the Virginia Transit Association, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and NVTC provided several presentations to the joint subcommittee on statewide transit funding, the impact of telework on transit and post-pandemic transit trends in the region.

In addition to the 10 revenue sources identified in NVTC's Metro Operating Funding and Reform

Working Group [Report](#), the joint subcommittee selected five [additional sources](#) to develop an expanded menu of revenue estimates in 2025:

1. Regional highway use fee
2. Regional income tax
3. Retail delivery fee
4. I-66 Inside the Beltway tolling outside of peak-period and peak direction
5. Regional motor vehicle rental tax

The joint subcommittee also approved a [work plan](#) for 2025 which includes four meetings between March/April and November.

## Strong Financial Management

### Ridership & Revenue

- 242M customer trips in FY2024 – 21% growth from FY2023
- Rail fare evasion down 82%, paid trips up
- Implemented a 12.5% fare increase for FY2025
- FY2025 Q1
  - Ridership up 9% compared to last year
  - Revenue up \$17M; 14% above budget
  - Projected 255M total trips in FY2025

### Cost Management

- **Identified \$532M in cost reductions:**
  - \$257M operating budget (FY2023-2025)
  - \$275M capital program
- No salary and wage increases for Local 689 and non-represented employees FY2025
- New Local 689 collective bargaining agreement minimizes impacts from future inflationary spikes
- Zero growth budget in FY2025
- Implemented service optimization and efficiencies (e.g. targeted use of 6-car trains)



## New Express Lanes ramp to benefit Commuter Choice-funded OmniRide routes

NVTC Commuter Choice and Policy Program Manager Daniel Knickelbein attended a ribbon cutting for the new 95 Express Lanes Opitz Boulevard Ramp in Prince William County on November 14. The new south-facing reversible ramp will provide faster, easier access to Potomac Mills Mall as well as the new Neabsco-Potomac Commuter Garage, which will soon

serve as an OmniRide bus hub. Funds from NVTC's Commuter Choice Program provide enhanced service on two OmniRide routes that will serve the Neabsco-Potomac Garage. NVTC congratulates Virginia Department of Transportation and Transurban on the ramp opening and appreciates their continued support of Commuter Choice.

## Prince William Garage to be home to Commuter Choice funded bus routes

Prince William County opened its first-ever [parking garage](#) on November 15, one that will be home to two Commuter Choice funded OmnRide bus routes, Route 95 (Prince William Metro Express) and Route 52 (Route 1 Local). The garage, strategically located adjacent to Potomac Town Center and the new Opitz

Boulevard ramp on the I-95 Express Lanes and across from Sentara Hospital, significantly improves multi-modal commuting options and expands parking accessibility for residents and local businesses. OmniRide will start operating from the garage on Monday, December 9.





# Metro Board adopts new funding formulas, Better Bus network

The Metro Board adopted new Metrobus and Metrorail [operating subsidy](#) allocation formulas at their [meeting](#) on November 21. The changes better align service with our jurisdictions' payments and also provide incentives to reduce fare evasion. Another benefit is making it easier for our localities to make decisions on how Metrobus and local bus service can best serve their residents. The new Metrorail formula better aligns benefits and costs of service. These revised formulas will be used in Metro's FY 2026 budget which is anticipated to be presented to the Metro Board in December.

## Better Bus Network

The Board also approved the [Better Bus](#) 2025 Network Redesign, which includes more frequent service routes and is forecasted to attract 13,000 more weekday trips when it goes into effect next summer.

## Dedicated transit funding, WMATA report, legislative agenda reviewed by NVTC committees

NVTC's WMATA and Legislative and Policy Committees [met jointly](#) on November 21 to hear about efforts to establish long-term funding for public transit, the 2024 "Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA" and our legislative agenda. Staff provided an overview of the Virginia General Assembly's Growing Transit Needs in Northern Virginia [joint subcommittee's](#) work to date, including the selection of five additional resources to the existing 10 options for Virginia to provide long-term, sustainable dedicated funding for all public transit agencies. The committees also discussed a draft series of guiding principles on long-term transit funding as NVTC and the region explore long-term funding solutions for Metro and transit agencies in Northern Virginia. These guiding principles will inform NVTC staff's work as additional regional funding conversations take place in 2025.

### DMVMoves

Committee members also heard updates on

parallel work being done at the regional level through [DMVMoves](#). The DMVMoves advisory groups, including the Government Partners Advisory Group in which NVTC staff participate, have continued to meet and are in the process of setting up subcommittees to advance a series of action plans to implement policy recommendations.

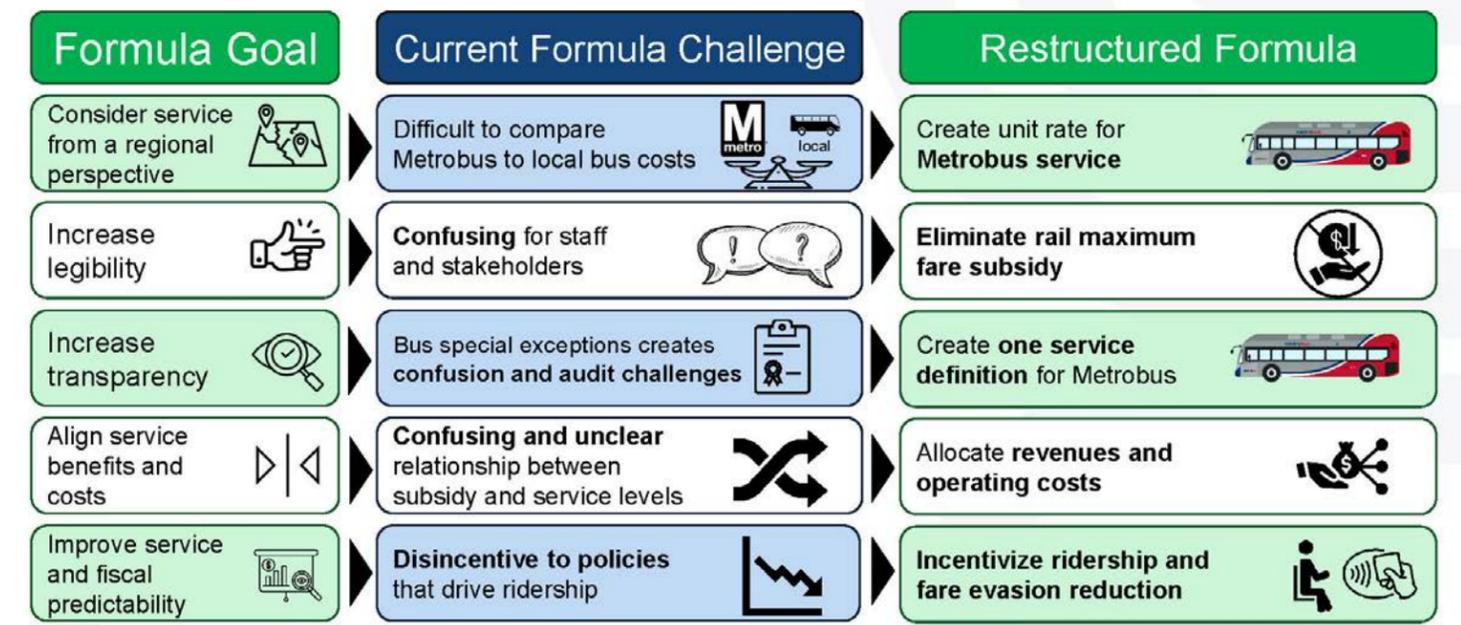
### Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA

Committee members also heard updates on the [2024](#) "Report on the Performance and Condition of WMATA," including key recommendations. Commissioners will be asked to approve the report at their December meeting.

### Legislative and Policy Agenda

Finally, the committees reviewed NVTC's 2025 Legislative and Policy [Agenda](#), outlining federal and state legislative priorities. That agenda will also be up for Commission approval in December.

## Examples: How Restructure Proposal Addresses Challenges



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

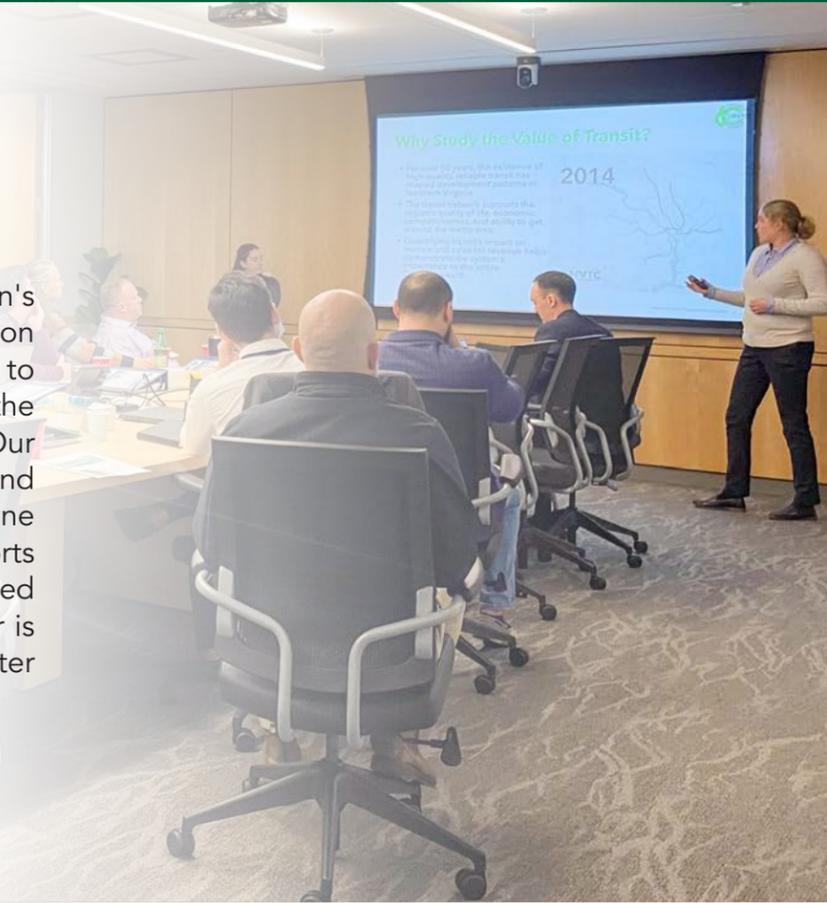
\*Notes: infrastructure costs only apply to Metrorail

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## NVTC hosts Virginia Transit Leadership Institute

NVTC hosted the Virginia Transit Association's Virginia Transit Leadership Institute (VTLI) on November 20. It was an opportunity for us to educate transit professionals from across the Commonwealth about the work we do. Our presentations included lessons on how transit and Metro are funded in Virginia, our work to determine the [Value of Transit](#) in Virginia and our efforts to establish long-term, sustainable dedicated funding for public transit. NVTC's Adam Hager is a member of the VTLI class and Brittany Sumpter was in last year's inaugural class.



# Happy Workiversary

**10** Years of Service



**Kate Mattice**  
Executive Director



NVTC, PRTC AND VRE PRESENT:

# ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Join us for a discussion on key policy issues  
affecting transit in Northern Virginia.

# RSVP

— Today —

8:30 - 11 a.m.  
Friday, December 13, 2024

George Mason University  
Schar School Multipurpose Room  
3351 Fairfax Drive, Van Metre Hall  
Arlington, VA 22201



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Northern Virginia since 1964*

2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 230  
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